



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 1099

January Session, 2015



**AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMISSION
TO DEVELOP A VISION AND STRATEGIC MASTER PLAN FOR THE
CONNECTICUT PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a
2 Planning Commission for Education to develop and ensure the
3 implementation of a strategic master plan for public education in
4 Connecticut.

5 (1) The commission shall consist of the following voting members:
6 (A) Four members appointed by the speaker of the House of
7 Representatives, one of whom shall be a current or former
8 superintendent of schools for a rural school district, one of whom shall
9 be a certified teacher who is currently employed as a teacher in a
10 public school or has retired from teaching in a public school not less
11 than one year prior to appointment, one of whom shall be a person
12 with knowledge and experience with students with special education
13 needs and one of whom shall be a person with knowledge and
14 experience in systems building; (B) four members appointed by the
15 president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom shall be a current or
16 former superintendent of schools for an urban school district in which
17 a charter school and interdistrict magnet school are located, one of
18 whom shall be a certified teacher who is currently employed as a

19 teacher in a public school or has retired from teaching in a public
20 school not less than one year prior to appointment, one of whom shall
21 be a person with knowledge and experience regarding early childhood
22 education and one of whom shall be a person with knowledge and
23 experience in civil rights relating to equity, access and the quality of
24 education; (C) two members appointed by the majority leader of the
25 House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a current or former
26 superintendent of schools for a regional school district and one of
27 whom shall be a student who is enrolled in a public high school in the
28 state; (D) two members appointed by the majority leader of the Senate,
29 one of whom shall be a current or former superintendent of schools for
30 a suburban school district and one of whom shall be a parent or
31 guardian of a student who is enrolled in a public school in the state; (E)
32 two members appointed by the minority leader of the House of
33 Representatives, one of whom shall be a representative of a state-wide
34 business organization and one of whom shall be a scholar who has
35 experience and expertise in the field of education from
36 prekindergarten to grade twelve, inclusive; (F) two members
37 appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of whom shall be
38 an entrepreneur and one of whom shall be a scholar who has
39 experience and expertise in the field of higher education; (G) nine
40 members appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be a certified
41 teacher who is currently employed as a teacher in a public school or
42 has retired from teaching in a public school not less than one year prior
43 to appointment, one of whom shall be a parent or guardian of a
44 student who is enrolled in a public school in the state, one of whom
45 shall be a student who is enrolled in a public high school in the state,
46 one of whom shall be a person with knowledge and experience in
47 systems building, one of whom shall be an entrepreneur, one of whom
48 shall be a person with knowledge and experience in civil rights
49 relating to equity, access and the quality of education, one of whom
50 shall be a person who has experience in the field of arts and culture,
51 one of whom shall be a scholar who has experience and expertise in
52 the field of psychology and one of whom shall be a scholar who has
53 experience and expertise in the field of sociology; (H) the

54 Commissioner of Education; and (I) the Commissioner of Early
55 Childhood. The commission membership shall reflect the state's
56 geographic, racial and ethnic diversity.

57 (2) The following persons shall serve as ex-officio nonvoting
58 members on the commission: (A) the Secretary of the Office of Policy
59 and Management, or the secretary's designee; (B) one representative
60 from each of the following associations or federations, designated by
61 the association or federation: The Connecticut Association of Boards of
62 Education, the Connecticut Association of Public School
63 Superintendents, the Connecticut Federation of School Administrators,
64 the Connecticut Education Association and the American Federation of
65 Teachers-Connecticut; (C) the chairpersons and ranking members of
66 the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
67 cognizance of matters relating to education; (D) the chairpersons of the
68 achievement gap task force established pursuant to section 10-16mm of
69 the general statutes; and (E) the executive director of the Commission
70 on Children, or the executive director's designee.

71 (3) The commission shall elect cochairpersons of the commission at
72 its first meeting. Any vacancies shall be filled by the appointing
73 authority. The term of each appointed member of the commission shall
74 be three years from the date of appointment. The commission
75 members shall serve without compensation except for necessary
76 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. The commission
77 may seek the advice and participation of any person, organization or
78 state or federal agency it deems necessary to carry out the provisions
79 of this section. The commission may, within available appropriations,
80 retain consultants to assist in carrying out its duties. The commission
81 may receive funds from any public or private sources to carry out its
82 activities.

83 (b) The commission shall articulate a clear vision and mission for
84 developing a sustainable, equitable and high-quality public education
85 system that coordinates the components of education reform, clarifies
86 how such components of education reform work together and

87 provides every child with access to an educational experience that
88 meets such child's needs. The commission shall develop and ensure
89 the implementation of a strategic master plan to carry out such vision
90 and mission.

91 (1) In developing the strategic master plan, the commission shall
92 address the following issues: (A) How to better organize the state
93 public education system to streamline various and disparate mandates,
94 initiatives and reforms that may compete with the articulated vision
95 and mission; (B) the manner in which the public education system
96 utilizes data and supports to inform and improve the provision of
97 education in the state; (C) the extent to which the testing and
98 accountability system assesses the most worthy outcomes of public
99 education; and (D) the identification and analysis of the most
100 significant factors that effect and support the most worthy outcomes of
101 public education for all students, including, but not limited to, poverty,
102 socioeconomic and racial isolation, language barriers and parental
103 engagement in a student's education.

104 (2) In addressing the issues described in subdivision (1) of this
105 subsection, the commission shall consider: (A) What are the most
106 worthy outcomes of public education and what means can be taken to
107 achieve such outcomes; (B) the extent to which the public education
108 system prepares students to meet the challenges of work, citizenship
109 and life upon graduation; (C) strategies to develop state-wide
110 education leadership goals and to enhance education leadership in
111 conformance with such goals; (D) ways to ensure effective
112 communication and partnership between school districts and the
113 families of children who attend public school in such school district,
114 with particular focus on diversity; (E) ways to share best practices
115 within the public education system, including, but not limited to,
116 learning across methodologies, models and structures of educational
117 excellence; (F) what innovations are necessary to excel in both
118 competitiveness and character; (G) the extent to which the public
119 education system empowers students and educators to excel, innovate

120 and build on strengths; and (H) best practices that ensure high quality
121 instruction and promote continuous systemic improvement.

122 (3) The commission shall also examine and recommend changes to
123 funding policies, practices and accountability in order to (A) align such
124 funding policies, practices and accountability with the strategic master
125 plan, (B) ensure that all school districts receive equitable funding from
126 the state, (C) ensure an appropriate, sustained investment in the
127 implementation of the strategic master plan, and (D) determine and
128 recommend measures to promote the adoption of ways in which
129 resources can be most effectively utilized.

130 (c) (1) Not later than February 15, 2016, the commission shall submit
131 a preliminary report on the development of the strategic master plan
132 together with any recommendations for appropriate legislation and
133 funding to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the
134 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
135 and appropriations, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
136 of the general statutes.

137 (2) Not later than December 31, 2016, the commission shall submit
138 the strategic master plan, including specific goals and benchmarks for
139 implementation, together with any recommendations for appropriate
140 legislation and funding to the Governor and the joint standing
141 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
142 relating to education and appropriations, in accordance with the
143 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

144 (d) Not later than January 1, 2018, and annually thereafter, the
145 commission shall submit a report to the Governor and the joint
146 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
147 matters relating to education and appropriations, in accordance with
148 section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the implementation of the
149 strategic master plan and progress made toward achieving the goals
150 specified in the strategic master plan. The commission may
151 periodically suggest changes to the goals as necessary.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

GAE *Joint Favorable*

APP *Joint Favorable*